

REMARKS

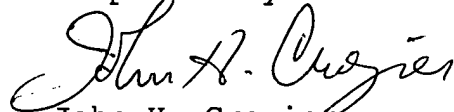
The above-referenced Office Action has been carefully reviewed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of: Group I, Claims 1-18 and 21-23 drawn to a method and apparatus for chemical compound storage; Group II, Claims 19-20 and 24-25 drawn to a method and apparatus for performing a biological assay; and Group III, Claims 26-29 drawn to a liquid aspirating/dispensing device.

Applicant hereby elects with traverse to have the claims of Group I examined in the present application. However, it is believed that the requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. All claims in the application are closely related and should be examined together for reasons of efficiency and economy.

Date: April 24, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


John H. Crozier

Date Oct 24/00 Regis. No. 30,371